

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

VOLUME XX, NUMBER 24

WASHINGTON, D. C.

MARCH 5, 1951

When It's Easy

By Walter E. Myer

JOSEPH AUSLANDER, writing for *This Week*, speaks of some first impressions upon visiting Father Flanagan's Boys Town, Nebraska. He speaks particularly of "the simple, inspiring plaque which has become a kind of symbol of the spirit and work of that wonderful experiment in affection and faith—the picture of a sturdy young lad carrying a crippled boy in his arms. Beneath this is written, 'He ain't heavy, Father. He's my brother.'"

"Today, against the background of current news stories . . . it is impossible to read these words," says Mr. Auslander, "without a catch at the throat and a thrill at the heart. What a lesson for all of us—individuals, families, communities and nations—that utterance carries!"

"If only, in our daily lives, at home or at our business or in our dealings with our neighbors, we could share the burden, reach out a hand to help, lift another's load onto our shoulders for a while!"

"If only, in their intercourse with each other, the countries of the world could apply this warm and generous human impulse to their councils and deliberations, the poisons of fear and envy and suspicion would surely evaporate in peace."

"If only everyone everywhere in the world, of whatever race, creed, color or conviction, could stand before his God and say, 'He ain't heavy, Father. He's my brother!'"

"If only . . ."

The burden never seems heavy when we are helping someone we really care for. It never seems hard to work for a cause in which we believe. The trouble with many of us is that we live sheltered lives. We are not frequently in the presence of urgent need so that we find out what it means to lend a helping hand. We do not every day come face to face with great problems so that we develop a living interest in the welfare of others and a disposition to serve.

When great occasions come we are unprepared to meet them nobly because our emotions are starved. We do not recognize drama even when we are in the midst of it. We do not realize that the fellow at our side is, in the true sense of the term, a brother and we do not treat him as such. We do not bear his burdens.

Because too many of us are callous to the feelings of others we have unhappiness in the home, discord within nations, and wars among the countries of the world. Better days will come only when men and women, boys and girls, develop broader sympathies; when people everywhere have an abiding interest in the welfare of their fellow men.

Some people have already reached this point in the development of their emotional lives, and upon these the future of civilization depends. They are the strong, the resolute, the courageous, who dare to follow humane goals as they travel paths of justice and hope.



PRIMITIVE METHODS of farming are one reason for India's food shortages

Food Crisis in India

United States Develops Plan to Give Wheat to Asiatic Nation;
Both Democrats and Republicans Support Aid Program

THE United States government is going over the details of a plan to send huge quantities of wheat to hungry India. At least 100 million of that country's 350 million people, almost all of them very poor, are existing on a meager diet that can barely sustain life now. There is danger that thousands will starve, because drouth and flood have ruined crops that were counted upon to ease the food shortage.

India lacks the dollars to buy all the food she needs for a relief program. So President Truman, with the support of leading Republicans and Democrats in Congress, has proposed that American wheat be made a gift to India. The gift should carry the huge Asiatic country through the present grave emergency.

There is a very important political side to the plan to help India. A good many Americans think that India is not taking a strong enough stand against Communist Russia's threat to world freedom. On the other hand, many Indian leaders, bombarded by Russian propaganda, suspect American motives and believe that we seek to establish "imperialist" power over India.

Despite political differences with the Republic of India, Democratic and Re-

publican sponsors want to go ahead with the food relief program. The sponsors believe, as Republican Senator H. Alexander Smith of New Jersey says, that the program can serve to show our friendly attitude toward the Indian people. American generosity may help to correct some of India's false impressions of us. If so, the gift of wheat may turn out to be a telling weapon against Communist propaganda.

India's need of food is urgent. The basic food ration is nine ounces of grain (in the form of flour or rice) a day. Often the ration is as low as six ounces of grain, hardly enough for more than a few slices of bread or a few rice cakes. Those who can afford it buy food in the black market from illegal sellers, but the poor in some of the most impoverished rural areas of the country are eating grass and weeds.

There are two major reasons for the present food crisis. In the first place, floods, drouth, and insect plagues last year destroyed millions of tons of food crops. Secondly, India and Pakistan (both of which won independence from Great Britain in 1947) are involved in a bitter dispute over grain

(Concluded on page 7)

Plans for Labor and Management

Machinery Is Urged to Prevent
Costly Industrial Strife
During Emergency

A SHORT time ago, the labor unions became dissatisfied with the way in which the defense mobilization program was being run on the home front.

The heads of the two big federations—William Green of the American Federation of Labor and Philip Murray of the Congress of Industrial Organizations—and other top union officials contended that the labor groups should have a bigger voice in shaping economic policies. They felt, too, that the wage-price freeze was putting more hardship on industrial workers than on other large groups—for example, businessmen and farmers.

The discontent of the labor unions was dramatized last month when the three representatives of labor withdrew from the nine-man government board which has charge of fixing wage levels. Despite the protests of the three labor representatives, the board voted to limit future wage increases to 10 per cent.

The labor members charged that this figure was too small for many workers whose income had not kept pace with the rising cost of living. The position of the rest of the board, though, was that a firm stand had to be made somewhere to stop inflation.

In recent days Charles Wilson, Director of Defense Mobilization, has taken a number of steps intended to lessen the discontent of the labor groups. The tension has thus been somewhat eased. Nonetheless, there are still differences of opinion which—observers agree—might have serious effects on the country's preparedness program. If labor discontent should grow, it is feared there may be strikes and other industrial troubles in the critical months ahead.

(Concluded on page 6)



ALL TIED UP. Labor-management disputes, such as the recent one in the railway industry, can cause distress to the nation.

The Story of the Week

NOTICE

In order that our readers may easily remove the big map which occupies the center spread of this issue, we did not have the pages of the paper pasted together as we usually do. This is only a temporary measure, and we shall return to our regular policy next week.

Tracking Down Enemies

Several groups are busily at work to combat Communists and other subversive groups inside our country:

Subversive Activities Control Board, composed of five members, and headed by Seth Richardson, former Assistant Attorney General. The board's job is to force Communist and other subversive organizations and individuals into the open. It does this by



Richardson



Nimitz

holding public hearings to determine if groups and persons, accused by the Department of Justice, really are subversive. If so, they are required by law to "register" with the government.

Loyalty Review Board, made up of 25 members, headed by former Connecticut Senator Hiram Bingham. The LRB passes on the loyalty of government employees. It decides the appeals of persons recommended for dismissal from the government service because of disloyalty or because they are poor "security risks."

President's Commission on Internal Security and Individual Rights, a group of nine distinguished Americans, headed by Admiral Chester Nimitz. It is studying our laws on treason, sabotage and other subversive activities to find out how they may be improved. It is also finding out whether the democratic and Constitutional liberties of loyal Americans are being properly protected.

Big Four Conference?

Will the foreign ministers of the "Big Four"—the United States, Britain, France and Russia—meet for an important conference in Washington soon? A preliminary meeting to discuss a program for the main conference is supposed to start in Paris today. As we go to press, it is not certain whether or not this meeting will be held.

Russia, until a short time ago, insisted on having the "Big Four" meeting deal only with the problem of what to do about Germany. The Soviet leaders, despite the fact that they have heavily armed the eastern Germans, are critical of the re-arming of the western Germans. Russia is also reported to be in favor of uniting East and West Germany.

We and our allies are suspicious of the Russian desire for German unity. The Soviet leaders probably think that the Communists could soon gain control of the entire nation. We have also insisted that any "Big Four" conference must deal with a number of problems besides Germany—problems such as disarmament and the large armies being maintained by the Soviet satellites.

Russia seems to be yielding on broadening the program of discussion, although her final attitude is unpredictable.

Record of Congress

The 82nd Congress has gotten off to a slow start. In this critical period, the major issues are of such importance—so much is at stake—that Congress is unwilling to act without ample deliberation.

One very important and very controversial issue is involved in the President's request for a "quickie" tax bill. Mr. Truman wants to raise 10 billion dollars immediately, and 6½ billions later, in new taxes. But Congressional action will be far from "immediate." There is intense debate across the country on the steep tax boosts that have been proposed; and Congress, of course, reflects the disagreement of the people.

It is certain that exhaustive committee hearings will be held on the tax issue before the legislature votes.

Another ponderous issue which has been, and will be, hotly contested is

the "Great Debate" over troops-to-Europe. Traditionally, there is deep-rooted concern in this country about sending our soldiers overseas. But the great decision turns not on *whether* but *how many* American troops will go to the Continent. There is also the issue of whether the President or Congress shall decide the size of our European forces.

After College—What?

What happens to college women after graduation? Vassar College recently sent questionnaires to its 16,000 living alumnae. The answers show that:

About 89 per cent of Vassar graduates marry. (This tops the marriage rate of 85 per cent for all women in the country.) The "average" alumna weds at the age of 26, and raises two or three children.

However, the great majority find jobs before or after marriage. Exactly 86 per cent of Vassar girls, graduating between 1940 and 1949, held positions at one time or another.

Earnings of the alumnae vary. According to the survey, 4 per cent of job-holding Vassar graduates make \$10,000 or more yearly; 8 per cent earn \$5,000 to \$10,000; but most have salaries up to \$3,000. The college explains that one third of all alumnae enter educational or social work, both relatively low-paying professions.

In addition to this big group, one fourth of the graduates engage in business or finance, one tenth in literary work, and one tenth in the government service.

The survey showed that, while the majority find jobs after graduation, most alumnae quit before reaching highly paid positions in order to marry, raise families, and do community work.

Kashmir Dispute

The 3½ year old dispute between India and Pakistan over the large province of Kashmir is in the news again. Both nations have claimed this area, which is about the size of Kansas, since they became independent countries in 1947.

About 8 out of 10 people who live in Kashmir are Moslems, the religion of Pakistan, while the remainder are mostly Hindus, India's chief religion.



STEEL AND GLASS are the only materials used for the exterior of this new apartment building in Chicago. When completed, the structure will give the appearance of a giant glass house.

The Hindu ruler, who governed Kashmir when India and Pakistan were being set up, agreed to unite his land with the Indian nation. Moslem tribesmen, however, invaded the area and the fight between the two groups began.

The United Nations managed to stop the fighting there in 1947, but as yet has been unable to bring about a final solution. Now, American and British leaders are making renewed efforts to settle the dispute. They have called on the UN to supervise and enforce a military withdrawal of hostile troops in Kashmir, and to allow the citizens to vote and decide which nation they wish to join.

Recruiting Investigation

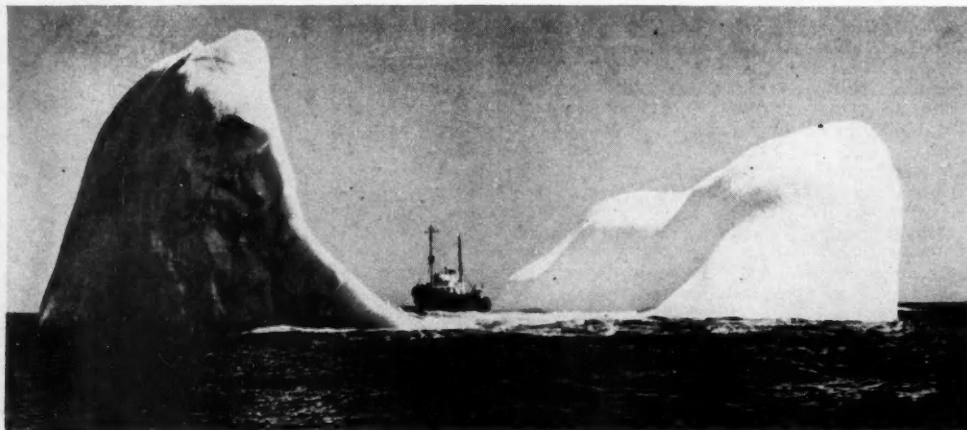
When a Senate committee recently found overcrowded conditions at the Lackland, Texas, air base, it decided to investigate other military centers where recruits first enter the armed forces. Fifteen such centers, maintained by the Air Force, Army, Navy and Marine Corps, are being examined by the lawmakers.

This is what the investigators of the Senate group found in the Texas air camp: A base built to house no more than 27,500 men was packed with over 68,000 persons at one time—thousands of men were forced to sleep in tents. Because the base was so crowded, the required 13-week recruit training program had to be suspended for a time.

The committee blamed heavy Air Force enlistments for the trouble. Too many young men, especially those with high mental and physical qualifications, have been encouraged to join the Air Force, the Senators charged. This, they said, not only caused overcrowding of air training facilities, but it also "drained" good men away from other services.

Tito's Position

In recent months, the Russian satellite countries on Yugoslavia's borders have stepped up war preparations. They and Russia had better think long and hard before launching an attack, however, for top American and British leaders have strongly hinted that an act of aggression against Yugoslavia would be met by a powerful combination of force.



A SEAGOING TUG, part of the International Ice Patrol, sights an iceberg in the North Atlantic. The berg's location and the direction of its movement are checked and warnings are sent to ships' navigators in the vicinity. Many accidents, with bergs and ships colliding, have been avoided since the patrol was established.

In the meantime, Tito has declared that he will help other European states if they are attacked and if Yugoslavia's interests are involved. Since successful aggression anywhere weakens all nations that want to be free, Tito's words are thought to mean that he has taken a position with the west to resist Russia.

Tito clearly says he does not want military aid, though, until a conflict actually breaks out in Europe. In this way, it is believed, he hopes to prove to Russia that he is acting purely defensively without aggressive intentions.

Integrity of Sports

Since the discovery that a number of well-known basketball players have thrown points or games for bribe money in their own pockets and for the benefit of professional gamblers, these questions have frequently been asked:

To what extent are the big amateur and professional sports events honest? Can we believe that any of them are on the level, in view of what has happened?

The answers would seem to be the following: There are dishonest people in all walks of life—in school, in business, in politics, and in other fields of endeavor. Fortunately, these people are in a minority, for no nation can be strong, happy, and united if dishonesty becomes too widespread.

Most sports events and participants are on the level, but a campaign of education has to be constantly carried on to maintain high ethical standards in this field just as in all others.

Politics in Israel

Although Israel's population is only a little more than 1¼ million, the people are divided into a number of political parties. It is often hard for these parties to get together on a program of action in the *Knesset*, or parliament.

A political conflict has developed over this issue: Should all refugee children who come into Israel be trained in the Jewish religion? David Ben-Gurion, who has been Prime Minister of the country since May 1948,



FLOODS in northern Italy turn the main square of a village into a lake. An almost complete evacuation of the town was made necessary by the high waters, which came from a nearby river.

answers "no." His party has 46 of the 120 seats in parliament.

A "religious bloc" of 16 parliamentary members voted against Ben-Gurion. They would not have had enough strength to defeat him if the 20 pro-Soviet members of parliament had not supported them (the Communists never lose an opportunity to weaken the political group in power).

As we go to press, it has been impossible for anyone else to form a cabinet, so Ben-Gurion is serving temporarily.

How She Skis!

One of the brightest stars of the winter sports season was 18-year-old Andrea Mead of Rutland, Vermont. Miss Mead proved she is one of the best skiers in the world by winning two major racing competitions in Europe. She is at her best in the slalom, a race over a zigzag, downhill course.

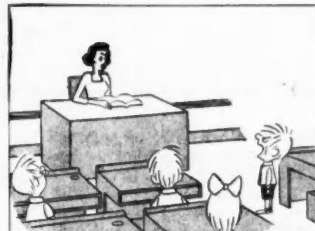
Andrea's parents are ardent skiers, and they taught her the art almost as soon as she could walk. By the time she was 10 years old, she was racing down the snow-covered slopes of Vermont. At 15, she won a berth on the U. S. Olympic team in 1948.

THE LIGHTER SIDE

"I talked to the doctor today about my loss of memory."
"What did he do?"
"Made me pay him in advance."

★

Money no longer talks. It just goes without saying.



"Don't you remember? You asked me that yesterday, and I told you I didn't know!"

Housewife (to salesman at the door): "No, I'm not in the market for a vacuum cleaner, but try the people next door. We borrow theirs and it's in terrible condition."

★

Boring Guest: "Now, don't trouble to see us to the door."
Hostess: "Oh, it's no trouble—it's a pleasure."

★

Customer: "I won't be able to pay for this suit for three months."
Tailor: "Oh, that's all right; don't worry."
Customer: "When will it be ready?"
Tailor: "In three months, sir."

★

"You ask high wages for a young man without experience."
"Yes, sir, but it's much harder work when you don't know anything about it."

★

"Which travels faster—heat or cold?"
"Heat—you can always catch cold."

News in Brief

The 1951 fund-raising campaign of the American Red Cross has commenced. The goal this year is 85 million dollars, 17 million more than last year. The increase is made necessary by new Red Cross activities in Korea, and in the defense build-up on the home front. One huge job of the Red Cross this year will be the training of millions of volunteers for civil defense jobs, such as caring for refugees from bombed areas.

★

Another proof that this country's interest in world affairs has increased tremendously since before World War I is provided by employment statistics of the State Department. In 1913 there were only 1836 employees of that department. Today it has 25,013 workers.

★

Last week a news note in THE AMERICAN OBSERVER reported how President Truman had defied a Senate committee investigating the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. The committee had charged three RFC directors with improper conduct and had recommended they be replaced by a single administrator. However, Mr. Truman quickly sent the names of all five directors to the Senate for confirmation.

Shortly after we went to press, the President reversed himself. He agreed that the RFC should be reorganized and placed under a single administrator. Meanwhile, Congress is still studying the charges against the RFC, and will decide what to do about that organization.

★

Representative Frances Bolton, of Ohio, has introduced a bill in Congress to set up a program of Federal aid for the training of nurses. The measure is designed to provide this country with 25,000 more nurses, who would be trained at government expense. Senator James Murray, of Montana, has introduced a somewhat similar bill in the upper chamber.

Study Guide

Industrial Disputes

1. Why did representatives of labor unions withdraw from the nine-man government board that has charge of fixing wage levels?
2. Describe the way in which the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service operates.
3. Discuss the plan that has been put forward for compulsory arbitration of labor-management disputes.
4. What arguments are made in favor of this plan?
5. What is said by persons who oppose it?
6. Describe briefly the contract signed last spring by General Motors and the United Automobile Workers.
7. Give arguments for and against extending this kind of contract to other industries.

Discussion

1. What, in your opinion, is the strongest argument for the compulsory arbitration proposal? What is the strongest argument against it? Do you or do you not think the proposal should be adopted?
2. What, in general, are your views concerning the General Motors' "cost-of-living" contract?

India

1. Give two reasons to explain the present food crisis in India.
2. Describe the plan under which the U. S. would give aid to the Asiatic nation.
3. What position did India take in the United Nations on the question of North Korea's attack on the Korean Republic?
4. What was India's position when Communist China entered the war?
5. How has this political issue affected the question of our sending aid to the Indian people?
6. What long-range measures are under way in India to increase the nation's food supply?

Discussion

Do you or do you not think Congress should insist that India follow us in foreign policy matters before we send the country aid in its present emergency? Give your reasons.

Miscellaneous

1. Define the main duties of three organizations working against subversive groups in this country.
2. What does Russia want to discuss at a four-power conference? What do the western democracies want to take up?
3. Name two great issues which Congress is considering?
4. How do American and British leaders propose to stop the Kashmir controversy?
5. What is Marshal Tito's position in regard to possible invasion of western Europe?
6. Over what issues has a political conflict developed in Israel?
7. Give briefly the history of time zones in the United States.
8. What are some of the problems arising in connection with the nation's water supply?

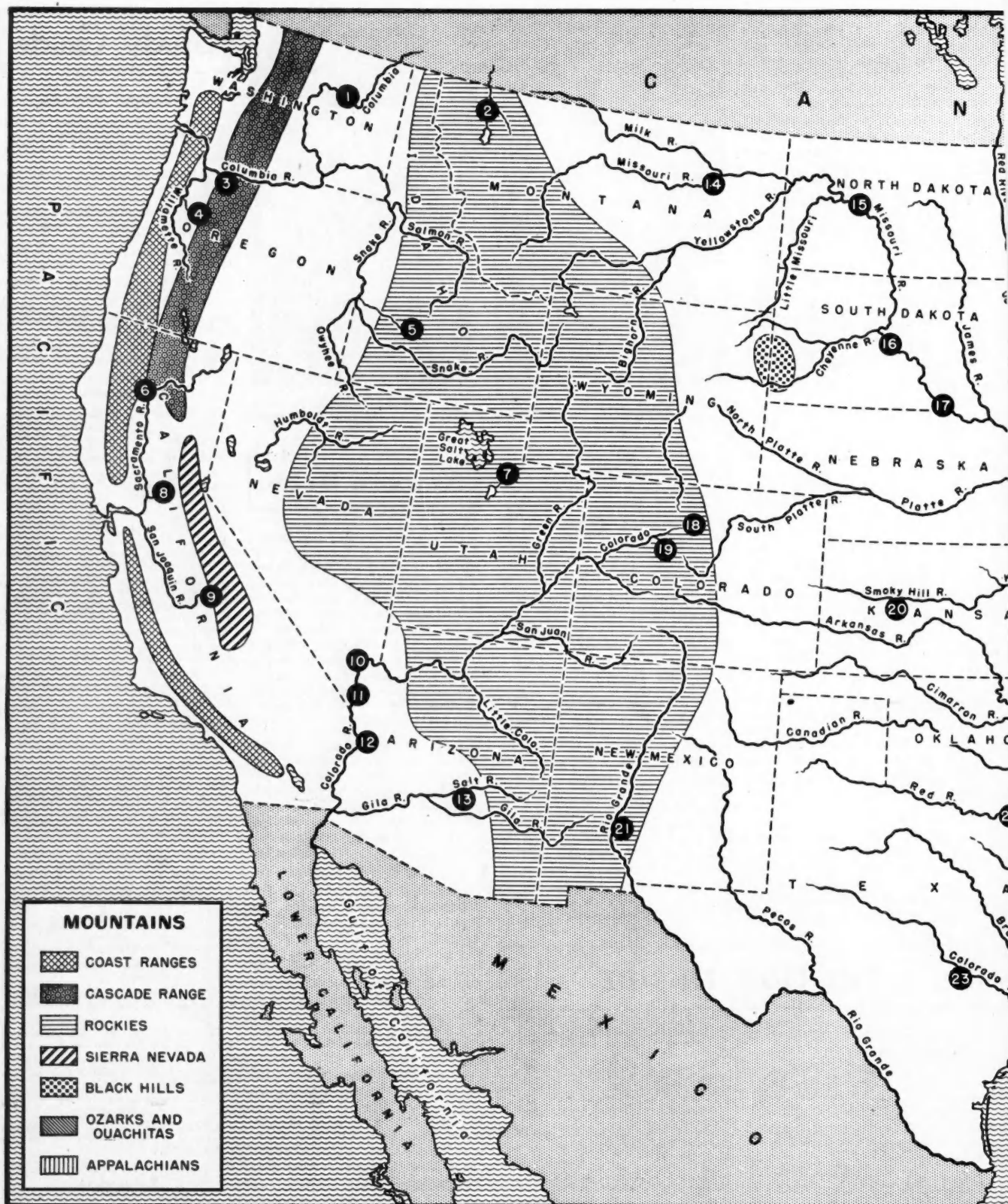
References

"Building An Economy of One-Sixth of the World," *United Nations World*, January. Deals with India's economic problems.

"Mobilization," *Time*, February 26. Labor is angry at mobilization chiefs.

Answers to Your Vocabulary

1. (d) 10 years; 2. (b) demolished; 3. (b) fierce and intense; 4. (d) cruel and wicked; 5. (c) pays him for loss or damage; 6. (a) is unusual.



WAR in Korea. The North Atlantic Army. Trouble in Yugoslavia. These and the many other grave international problems tend to take our attention away from purely national needs. One of these needs, though, has recently been the subject of a detailed study. It is, surprisingly enough, water.

A year ago, President Truman asked a commission of seven men to study the nation's water resources and recommend an over-all policy for their development. In carrying out its work, the commission made some startling discoveries. There is, first of all, the serious possibility of a water shortage, especially in areas of the West which are growing in population.

Secondly, according to the commission, we have not completely neglected our water resources, but much of our effort has been wasted. The federal government alone spends more than a billion dollars a year on water conservation projects. Each of the 48 states and many localities undertake costly projects of their own.

Even though large expenditures are made, the projects undertaken are often at

cross-purposes. A dam high on a river, for instance, may benefit people in its neighborhood, while it interferes with navigation lower down. In spite of the spending of billions of dollars, the nation is still not getting the hydro-electric power that it needs; tons of soil are still washed down to the sea each year; thousands of acres still remain to be irrigated. The confusion and waste, according to the commission, come in part from the fact that so many different groups—federal, state, and local—plan their projects independently.

To overcome the difficulty, the group suggested that Congress draw up a water policy for the entire nation. Actual projects would be planned as a unit for each of the country's major river basins. While state and local governments would take part in the programs, the federal government would coordinate the work all along the line. Dams and other water-development projects would be planned from the standpoint of each river system as a whole, rather than being planned to benefit only the adjacent areas.



DRAWN FOR THE AMERICAN OBSERVER BY JOHNSON

The recommendation for federal supervision will undoubtedly cause heated controversy throughout the country. Six months before the President's commission made its report, the Engineers Joint Council, a private organization, had made a study of our water resources. The council came to many of the same conclusions reached by the commission, but it said that most of the present difficulties stemmed from work already done by the federal government. The confusion, overlapping, and waste, the council contends, arise from the federal government's "sweeping authorizations" for projects—authorizations that are often granted "on insufficient data. . ." Future planning, according to the council, should be done by the state and local governments, without federal interference.

Whoever controls the planning, it is generally agreed, should consider the many different effects of water-development programs. First there is the effect of a dam, say, on the surface water—on the natural drainage of rain waters and on the flow of rivers and streams. Then there are the effects on forests and soils; on flood control

and irrigation; on water supplies for homes and factories; on navigation and electricity. Finally, the effects of the projects on fish and wildlife, as well as the development of recreational areas, should be considered.

Thus far, with a few notable exceptions, water-development programs have been undertaken to emphasize only one or possibly two of these points, without regard to the others. Both the Engineers Joint Council and President Truman's commission agree that such haphazard planning should end.

The map above shows some of our country's important river basins and mountain ranges—features that play a major part in determining our water supply. The locations of a number of the nation's dams (some of them not yet completed) are also shown. It has been impossible to indicate all the important rivers, mountains, and dams, but we have included as many as possible in the space at our disposal. The selection of dams has been made primarily to show how widespread such facilities are throughout the country.

Machinery Sought to Limit Industrial Disputes

(Concluded from page 1)

The prospect of work stoppages is not a pleasant one. Still fresh in the memory of everyone is the rail tie-up which paralyzed much of the nation's transportation system several weeks ago. No one will deny that work stoppages in this and other vital industries—no matter how justified they may seem to some—do grave harm to the nation's economy.

But how can strikes be avoided? This question deserves careful study. At a time of national crisis, it is widely felt that we must have an orderly plan for settling labor-management disputes. Only in this way can we avoid industrial conflicts that will do immeasurable damage to our defense effort.

At present we have a government agency—the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service—which tries to help bring industrial disputes to an end. The disputing parties are brought together and induced to sit down and talk things over. Through discussion and persuasion, company and union officials are encouraged to come to an agreement.

The Mediation and Conciliation Service does valuable work, yet it can only act as a go-between for the two sides. If the two parties do not come to an understanding, the Mediation Service does not have the power to force a settlement.

Consequently, the demand is being made that there be set up some *sure* means of ending industrial disputes, particularly those which affect the health and welfare of the nation as a whole. With the possibility of labor troubles in the months ahead, this proposal, which has been made from time to time in the past, is being supported by many people today.

One specific idea now being advanced as a means of settling disputes between employers and workers is that of *compulsory arbitration*. Under this proposal a national board would be set up by the government. It would consist of members representing employers, labor, and the general

would, on completion of its study, hand down a decision. *Both parties would be bound to accept it.*

Those who favor the idea of compulsory arbitration say:

"It is just as sensible to hand down a 'verdict' in an industrial dispute as it is in a legal dispute when two individuals disagree and take the matter to court. There is no good reason why the government shouldn't handle disputes between employers and workers in this way. In the present national emergency, the government controls wages, prices, and many other phases of our lives, so why shouldn't it set up a board to settle arguments that threaten to develop into strikes?"

"Compulsory arbitration would be highly beneficial to the nation as a whole. Costly industrial conflicts with their crippling effects on the nation's economy would be eliminated."

Those opposed to compulsory arbitration advance these views:

"As soon as an arbitration board started handing down decrees, it would, in effect, be telling workers how much they could receive in wages and would be telling employers how much profit they could make. That would be a long step toward putting the industrial life of the nation squarely in the hands of the government. The employer would lose the right to run his business and make his own deci-

For example, the contract is to run for five years—the longest term ever specified in a contract between a major U. S. industry and its workers. Neither party to the contract can reopen it for five years under any conditions.

Another distinctive part of the contract is that which ties the worker's pay to the cost of living. When the cost of living rises a specified amount, then the worker automatically gets a certain increase in his wages. The system also works the other way to a limited degree. When the cost of living drops, the worker receives less. When his pay drops to a certain level, it does not, however, decline any further.



GEORGE HARRISON
President, AFL Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks, and assistant to Economic Stabilizer Eric Johnston

as in the case of the railway dispute, the government has had the Army step in and take over strike-bound industries. This policy, though, has generally brought bitter feelings and has seldom produced a settlement.

Whether industrial trouble lies ahead for the nation remains to be seen. It may be that the current situation will be speedily straightened out. If so, the nation can breathe a sigh of relief, confident that our defense program will meet its objectives.

None of us can sit back, however, and be certain that developments will go smoothly on the industrial front. It is to the advantage of all of us to familiarize ourselves with the possible ways in which labor disputes may be eliminated. Then each individual can throw the weight of his opinion in favor of the way which seems to him best and most just.



WALTER REUTHER
President, United Automobile Workers (UAW)

Some people feel that this kind of contract should be used more extensively. They think it would go far toward preventing serious strikes. They argue as follows:

"An agreement like this is sound because it assures the worker security. He knows that his income will keep pace with any rise in living costs, and he is assured that he will not find himself a victim of inflation."

"It is an equally good deal for the employer, for he can make long-term plans without the threat of a strike hanging over him. The public benefits, too, for it will not be hurt or inconvenienced by a work stoppage in this large corporation."

Others, though, are not so certain that the long-term, "cost of living" contract is the answer to labor troubles. In fact, some feel there are harmful aspects to an agreement of this kind. In support of their view they have the following to say:

"In the case of many corporations, employers can't risk making a contract for as long as five years. They don't know what the future will bring, and unlike General Motors, the largest manufacturing concern in the nation, they haven't tremendous assets to fall back on."

"Furthermore, the 'cost-of-living' adjustment can have harmful effects. It can make inflation more intense, for, at a time when prices are already rising, it puts more money in the hands of many people and encourages still higher prices. Specific workers may benefit by this plan, but the public in general may be hurt by it."

These are two suggested approaches to the problem of labor disputes. There are, of course, others. At times, such



WILLIAM GREEN
President, American Federation of Labor (AFL)

sions; the worker would lose the right to work or not to work under the conditions which he desired and which he felt to be just.

"Compulsory arbitration would mean losing certain freedoms that are a distinctive part of the American way of life. Furthermore, the decisions handed down would be hard to enforce, especially when large numbers of people were involved."

Compulsory arbitration represents one proposed approach to the problem of solving labor disputes. Another approach with wide support is embodied in the contract signed last spring between General Motors, the big automobile corporation, and the United Automobile Workers.

Last May the automobile company and its workers signed a contract providing for pay increases and for various other benefits. The contract had some other features, though, of a particularly distinctive nature—features which, it is felt, will insure stable industrial relations for some time.



PHILIP MURRAY
President, Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO)

public. Disputes in vital industries affecting the public interest would be submitted to the board.

The board would make a careful study of the issues involved in each dispute. Meanwhile, the employers and workers would continue to try to come to an agreement. If, however, they were not able to do so, the board

Your Vocabulary

For each sentence below, tell which answer best explains the meaning of the italicized word. Correct answers are on page 3, column 4.

1. A *decade* (dĕc'ād) is a period of (a) 3 months (b) 50 years (c) 5 years (d) 10 years.
2. The city was *devastated* (dĕv'as-tā-ted). (a) enlarged (b) demolished (c) captured (d) modernized.
3. Their attack on the government was *vehement* (vē'ĕ-mĕnt). (a) accompanied by use of armed force (b) fierce and intense (c) successful (d) foolish and unjustified.
4. An *atrocious* (uh-trō'shūs) act is (a) unnecessary (b) misguided and unsuccessful (c) performed suddenly (d) cruel and wicked.
5. If a government *indemnifies* (in-dĕm'ni-fiz) someone, it (a) executes him (b) praises or honors him (c) pays him for loss or damage (d) exiles him.
6. A *singular* (sing'gū-ler) event (a) is unusual (b) involves music (c) is disastrous (d) is commonplace.

Parliament. In parliaments, and all other legislative bodies, there is a lot of speechmaking. Our word *parliament* is based on the French *parler*, meaning "to speak."

India Faces Serious Food Crisis

(Concluded from page 1)

prices. Pakistan has some surpluses of grain, but India has refused to pay the price being asked and has not been getting wheat that normally would be imported from her next-door neighbor. (Under a new agreement, though, India will soon begin to get some of Pakistan's wheat.)

As a result of crop failures at home and the price difficulties with Pakistan, India expects to be about 6 million tons short of grain this year. She plans to buy 4 million tons from us, Canada, and other countries. She doesn't have enough dollars, however, to buy the additional 2 million tons needed to meet the nation's food requirements. For this reason, Prime Minister Pandit Nehru of India sought American help.

The relief program, introduced in Congress last month, would furnish India with the 2 million tons of wheat she wants. One million tons would be sent to India at once, and the remaining half of the wheat grant could be shipped later as needed. The cost of the gift probably will be about 200 million dollars.

The relief bill requires that an American inspection team, from the Economic Cooperation Administration, go to India to see that the wheat is distributed fairly. Further, India is asked to undertake a new agricultural improvement program.

Although India lacks dollars to buy wheat, she does have Indian currency, the *rupee*. Congress expects India to establish a special fund of rupees, equal in value to the cost of the wheat, and to use this fund for increasing food production.

Forty senators and representatives, Democrats and Republicans, got together to support the bill. Its backers included Republican Senator Robert Taft of Ohio, who often is critical of aid programs that Mr. Truman proposes. Because leaders of both parties gave strong approval, it seemed likely that Congress would pass the India relief measure. There was some opposition, however, that might set off serious debate. If a means of payment could be worked out, several congressmen were opposed to making the wheat a gift. They preferred selling the grain to India, on credit if necessary.

Political differences between the United States and India present a difficult problem. India is governed as a democracy, yet her course in world affairs is not always in accord with the western nations' ideas of how to prevent the spread of communism. India did support the United Nations decision to go to the aid of the Republic of Korea when it was attacked by Communist Koreans last summer. When Communist China entered the Korean war, however, India strongly opposed the UN resolution which condemned China for her aggressive action. She wanted to keep trying to persuade China to negotiate a peace. To condemn China for aggression, India argued, increased the danger of war and lessened the chance of peace.

One reason for India's attitude is that she sees herself as the leading nation of Asia. She is trying to use her influence to build an Asiatic bloc of nations independent of both the western world and Communist Russia. For this reason, India keeps up friendly relations with Communist

China. Prime Minister Nehru seems to hope that China eventually will turn to a moderate course.

Further, India was under British rule for hundreds of years and won independence in 1947 only after a bitter, hard struggle. The memory of the difficult years is still fresh and causes many Indians to look with deep suspicion upon western efforts to help speed the cause of democracy in Asia. Many Indians suspect us of selfish motives. They seem to fear that the United States and other western nations are seeking economic advantages in Asia and are not sincerely interested in Asiatic welfare.

President Truman wants to keep such political issues out of the discus-

India's future is beset by serious economic difficulties. The wheat relief program can carry India through the present crisis, but the long-range job of increasing India's own food supply will remain. Throughout her history, India has often been short of food.

The government already is attempting to increase agricultural output. Some land formerly used for raising cotton and sugar has been turned over to more essential food crops, such as rice, peas, and wheat. Other food crops—for example, bananas, yams, and tapioca—are being introduced for general cultivation.

Several large-scale irrigation projects are underway and the government is distributing fertilizer. Espe-



THESE TROOPS can win important battles, too

sions about giving food to the Indian people. The differences with India, Mr. Truman said in a message to Congress, "should not blind us to the needs of the Indian people. It is not our objective in foreign affairs to dominate other nations. Our objective is to strengthen the free nations through cooperation—free and voluntary." Former Republican President Herbert Hoover agrees with this point of view.

The political issues are important, however, even though we send wheat to India with no strings attached to the gift. India is a democracy and Prime Minister Nehru is against communism in his own country. There have been indications recently that he is beginning to see that the menace of Communist aggression can endanger India. If the gift of wheat can help to lessen suspicion of us, it may clear the way to closer, friendlier Indian-American cooperation. Such cooperation would be of immense value to the free world in its fight to end the Communist danger in Asia.

cially important are plans to clear additional land for crop purposes.

Few Indians have modern farming machinery. The wooden plow, drawn by an ox, is still the basic tool of the Indian farmer. There is a lack of good transportation facilities, too; this has sometimes been a cause of famine, when food could not be transferred quickly from areas where it was plentiful to regions suffering from drought that ruined crops.

The rapid increase in population has made the job of agricultural improvement more serious. Present estimates are that India has 30 million more people than in 1941, and the population figure rises each year.

The need for far greater modernization and expansion of farms is the big reason why the relief bill before Congress stipulates that India use her rupee funds for the job. For, in the long run, India must drastically improve the standard of living for her millions if she is to survive as a democracy and become a bulwark against Communist expansion in Asia.

Monthly Test

NOTE TO TEACHERS: This test covers issues of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER dated February 5, 12, 19, and 26. The answer key appears in the March 5 issue of *The Civic Leader*. **Scoring:** If grades are to be calculated on a percentage basis, we suggest that a deduction of 3 points be made for each wrong or omitted answer.

DIRECTIONS TO STUDENTS: In each of the following items, select the correct answer and write its letter on your answer sheet.

1. President Truman says the U. S. government should increase its expenditures on health activities because (a) the nation is in immediate danger of a serious epidemic; (b) American health standards are not now as good as they were many years ago; (c) proper health care for our population is essential to the maintenance of U. S. military power; (d) a surplus of hospitals is causing serious medical problems.

2. Which of the following health programs or proposals is receiving the sharpest criticism from Truman's opponents? (a) the compulsory health insurance plan; (b) extensive medical research; (c) federal aid for the building of local hospitals; (d) federal aid to states in efforts to curb diseases.

3. As two essentials of peace, Senator Brien McMahon mentions foolproof world disarmament and (a) expulsion of Russia from the UN; (b) a break in our government's former diplomatic relations with Moscow; (c) world federation; (d) U. S. assistance in raising living standards of poor countries.

4. Recent surveys of European opinion show that (a) western Europe is turning overwhelmingly against the United States; (b) the United States has many critics, and also many friends, in western Europe; (c) almost no criticism of the United States is ever heard in western Europe; (d) nearly all Europeans want to convert the North Atlantic alliance into a federal union.

5. A leading argument used by Americans who favor a voting age lower than 21 is that (a) all foreign nations permit their citizens to vote before reaching 21; (b) most of our states formerly let teen-agers vote, and the arrangement was satisfactory; (c) men under 21 are being drafted into the armed forces, and should therefore be allowed to vote; (d) the United Nations requires that our country lower its voting age.

6. Those who favor keeping 21 as the minimum age for voters argue that (a) no other nation lets its citizens vote before reaching 21; (b) if we lower the voting age, the United States will not be allowed to stay in the UN; (c) in general, people younger than 21 lack the judgment and experience which voters need; (d) teen-agers would be likely to support Communist candidates.

7. In Russia, (a) free private enterprise and political democracy prevail; (b) all businesses are in private hands, but the government is dictatorial; (c) the government controls most businesses, but the people are entirely free to criticize Soviet policies; (d) the government permits no political freedom, and it owns or controls all businesses.

8. Our present draft system is based on the principle of federal supervision, along with cooperation by the states and communities. It was first used effectively during (a) the Revolutionary War; (b) the Civil War; (c) World War I; (d) World War II.

9. A major cause of political dispute in Britain is the fact that (a) the government has taken ownership and control of coal mines, steel mills, and some other important industries; (b) national leaders want the King to give up his throne; (c) Britain is trying to regain control over Canada's government; (d) the Parliament contains many Communist members.

10. France (a) has decided to stop fighting against the Indo-Chinese Communists; (b) is reducing the size of her army; (c) takes no part in joint plans to defend western Europe; (d) gets a large share of the military aid that we are sending to western Europe.

11. The U. S. Secretary of Defense (a) ranks below the Secretary of the Army; (b) is second only to President Truman in authority over the armed

(Concluded on next page)

Monthly Test

(Concluded from page 7)

services; (c) is subordinate to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; (d) issues orders to the Secretary of State.

12. Early models of the atom bomb have been heavy and bulky (a) because a large, heavy bomb is difficult for spies to steal; (b) because of the need for large casings and firing mechanisms; (c) because the missile must fall rapidly when dropped from a plane; (d) because the bomb contains a huge amount of uranium and plutonium.

After the corresponding number on your answer sheet for each of the following items, write the word, name, or phrase that best completes the question.

13. The Peloponnesian War was between two ancient Greek states—Sparta and _____.

14. Greenland is a colony of what country?

15. Who is Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the U. S. armed forces?

16. Which state of the Union lets people vote when they reach the age of 18?

17. Libya, a country now on its way to independence, is located on the continent of _____.

18. What department of our government operates the Voice of America?

19. Rene Pleven recently visited the U. S. as head of what country's government?

20. The U. S. government recently set off a test series of atomic blasts in the state of _____.

21. During what great struggle did the storming of the Bastille occur?

22. Is Britain's meat ration now larger or smaller than during World War II?

Identify the following persons. Choose the correct description from the list below. Write the letter which precedes that description opposite the number of the person to whom it applies.

23. Millard Caldwell

24. John Foster Dulles

25. Eric Johnston

26. Gordon Dean

27. Clement Attlee

28. Frank Pace

A. Britain's Prime Minister

B. U. S. Economic Stabilization chief

C. Republican adviser in State Department

D. U. S. Secretary of the Army

E. Senator from Connecticut

F. Chairman, U. S. Atomic Energy Commission

G. U. S. Civil Defense Administrator

After the corresponding number on your answer sheet for each of the following items, write the letter of the word or phrase that makes the best definition of the word in italics.

29. A *valid* argument is (a) ridiculous; (b) hard to understand; (c) important; (d) sound.

30. *Anomalous* behavior is (a) abnormal; (b) disappointing; (c) praiseworthy; (d) destructive.

31. They get satisfaction out of such *reiteration*. (a) work; (b) repetition; (c) recreation; (d) good deeds.

32. An *audacious* program is (a) cautious; (b) costly; (c) bold; (d) inexpensive.

33. We can *confute* the prophecy. (a) definitely prove; (b) conclusively disprove; (c) repeat; (d) completely ignore.

A Career for Tomorrow - - With Office Machines

THE modern office, like the modern farm, is a highly mechanized place. Even the smallest office has a typewriter, and often there is an adding machine. From there on, the number and kinds of business machines in use are determined only by the scope of a firm's operations.

Comptometers of different types add, subtract, multiply, and divide in the twinkling of an eye. Vari-typers make it possible for a stenographer to use different-type faces and to produce material that looks very much like a printed page.

There is a long list of duplicating machines, beginning with the mimeograph, that easily turn out hundreds of copies of a single page. Then, there are machines for addressing envelopes, for stamping them, for writing checks, and for keeping books. Finally, there are the accounting-statistical machines that use punch cards.

Vocationally, the use of all these machines means that there is a wide variety of jobs that fall under the general heading of *office machine operator*. No one person operates all these machines in a single office, although most operators know how to use several of them. A stenographer, for instance, may use a comptometer and a mimeograph in addition to transcribing dictation on her typewriter. The more complicated machines, however, require operators with no other duties.

Mechanical ability is not necessary for an operator, but the power to concentrate and the ability to use one's hands quickly and accurately—manual dexterity—are essential.

The general field of working with office machines is a good one for young people who want to prepare themselves for a job quickly. Frequently, they can learn to handle the simplest of the machines in high school. Business



ONE of the many mechanical devices used in offices today—a wide-carriage adding machine

colleges usually have classes where a person may learn to operate more complicated devices. In some cities, the manufacturers (Underwood, International Business Machines, Remington Rand, and others) hold classes to teach the use of the machines.

Many people find the operation of business machines monotonous. The work is often routine, and an operator spends the day at a desk performing duties that soon become automatic. There is little chance for the exercise of one's imagination. Often, too, the operator feels that the work provides

limited opportunity for advancement.

This last is true, in part, but jobs in the field can be used as an entering wedge. Business firms want young employees who have some practical skill—shorthand, typing, or a knowledge of office machines. Once a person has secured a first job on the basis of one of these skills, he or she may advance to other positions.

Salaries for business machine operators vary and depend upon the size of the town in which a person works and on the complexity of the machine one handles. In the smaller places, a beginner may earn \$20 to \$25 a week. Experienced persons may get about \$50 a week. In the cities, the range is from \$30 to \$70 a week.

Young people who are planning to make their careers in business offices should learn to operate a few of the simple machines. The knowledge will help both in getting a job and later.

Any kind of employee increases his value to a firm by being able to fill in at one of the machines in time of need. A supervisor or executive is effective to the extent that he understands the duties of the people—including the office machine operators—who work under him.

Sales representatives of the major manufacturing firms can tell you about opportunities for learning to operate office machines. A pamphlet, "The Job of the Office-Machine Operator," Occupational Brief No. 92, USES, can be secured for 5 cents (in coin) from the Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.

—By CARRINGTON SHIELDS.

Historical Backgrounds - - Time Zones

SUPPOSE you are visiting a town a hundred miles from your own. You glance first at your watch, then at a local clock. They both show exactly the same hour and minute—if both are right.

There is nothing unusual about such an incident. The present-day American accepts it as perfectly natural. He knows that, except during daylight-saving season, clocks are uniform throughout each of the four big U. S. standard time zones. However, this condition has not always prevailed. Seventy years ago, each town or community set its clocks as it pleased. Either it would establish its own "standard time," through observation of the sun, or it would adopt the standard of some nearby city.

For each locality, noon was set approximately at the time when the sun was directly in the south. As the sun passed across the country from east to west, the various communities would observe it and fix their own noons. As a result, the nation's clocks probably were set in hundreds of ways. There were at least 27 different time standards in Illinois alone. Wisconsin was reported to have 38. Conditions in other states were not much better.

When it was exactly noon in Chicago, it was 11:27 in Omaha, 11:50 in St. Louis, 12:07 in Indianapolis, 12:13 in Cincinnati, and 12:31 in Pittsburgh.

For a long while Kansas City had no uniform time standard at all. The city's leading jewelers were the generally accepted timekeepers, but each of them set his own standard and no

two agreed. If someone said to an acquaintance, "I'll meet you this afternoon at three o'clock," the friend would probably have to ask, "Whose time are you using?"

During our country's earliest years, the confusion of time systems did not make a great deal of difference. Transportation and communications were slow and uncertain anyway. The various towns and communities were isolated from one another to a far greater degree than our towns and communities are now.

Today, though, we could hardly get along under a system involving hundreds of time zones. Airlines, railways, busses, radio networks—none of these could operate satisfactorily without some simple, uniform way of telling the time.

It was because the long railroads

became hopelessly snarled in the confusion of local time standards that our present system was finally adopted. In 1883 the railway companies set up a plan by which the United States was divided into four huge belts—Pacific, Mountain, Central, and Eastern. These are the zones which, with slightly different boundaries, still exist today. (Originally there was a fifth zone, taking in the eastern part of Maine. It is no longer used, however, in the United States.)

Standard time is uniform throughout each of the four present areas, and there is exactly an hour's difference between adjoining zones. Thus, when it is noon in Washington, D. C., it is 11:00 in Oklahoma City, 10:00 in Denver, and 9:00 in San Francisco.

The railroads persuaded the whole nation to follow their pattern of standard time zones. The arrangement was put into operation without federal legislation of any kind. It was not until 1918 that Congress passed an act which wrote the railroads' time system into law.

While the railroads were setting up uniform time zones for the United States, efforts were made to create a similar arrangement for the whole world. In 1884, more than two dozen countries sent delegates to an international conference for this purpose, held in Washington, D. C. This meeting laid foundations for the present world system of time zones—a system which, throughout much of the globe, operates like the one we have in the United States.



MOST STANDARD of times. This clock in the Naval Observatory, Washington, D. C., starts signals that go out by radio to signal the time to all parts of the world.